

THE ARENA OF SPORT.

The college golf clubs continue to increase. Recently Columbia college students organized a club. The men of the College of the City of New York and the University of Pennsylvania have also formed clubs. The other colleges that have entered teams are Yale, Princeton and Columbia. Harvard was invited, but did not accept. Rutgers has a number of players that play on the New Brunswick Golf club links, while Amherst, Dartmouth, Exeter and other New England colleges have courses and golfers, clever and enthusiastic.

It is quite probable that the United States Golf association will father the movement to hold an intercollegiate championship next year, as suggested by James Shields Murphy of The Golfer, and the question will no doubt be discussed by the executive committee and presented at the annual meeting. A movement was also suggested for an intercollegiate team championship.

Team matches between Oxford and Cambridge on the other side have been held for many years and have been among the leading intercollegiate fixtures of the two colleges. Oxford has won eight times and Cambridge nine times.—Exchange.

Anxious For the Fight.

Now that Bob Fitzsimmons has gone to San Francisco, where he is matched to meet Tom Sharkey in a ten round contest before the Occidental Athletic club on Dec. 9 for a purse of \$10,000, the sporting men of this country only hope that nothing will prevent the contest from taking place. Every one is anxious to see what chance Sharkey has with Fitzsimmons. While they are perfectly satisfied that Lanky Bob will win, they are at present making bets on the number of rounds Sharkey will last. The general opinion is that Sharkey will not last any more than five rounds. Fitzsimmons said before leaving on Saturday that if Sharkey is not a better man when he meets him than he was on the night that he boxed with John L. Sullivan in Madison Square Garden every one can bet that he will put Sharkey to sleep before four rounds are over.—New York World.

Cyclers Are to Blame.

There have been about 18 fatal bicycle accidents this year in and about New York, and with only two or three exceptions the cyclists have been to blame. Six cyclists have been run over by trucks or wagons, and four of these accidents were due to carelessness on the part of the riders themselves. Four have been run down by cable cars as a result of riding in the cable slot. There have been three collisions between wheelmen riding in opposing directions because of transgression of the rules of the road. There was one accident from coasting and four that were due directly to carelessness. It would seem that with these examples before them wheelmen would exercise more caution.—Buffalo Express.

Titus Tired of Suspension.

Fred Titus, the old class B racing cyclist, who is now under the ban of life suspension from all L. A. W. races, feels aggrieved that C. M. Murphy and L. D. Cabanne, who were suspended with him, are again racing, while the league officials refuse to take any notice of his claims for reinstatement. Titus has made repeated appeals to the racing board for reinstatement. He has now decided to send a petition to the national assembly for a removal of his suspension, and it is said that he will ask Chief Consul Potter to present his petition to that assembly. It is expected that the speedy racer will be reinstated.

A Bowling Tour.

Another tour of Brooklyn bowlers similar to that of last season is being arranged. The team will leave New York on Jan. 26, playing the same evening either in Goshen or Middletown, N. Y. Buffalo will be the next stopping place, where two days will be spent playing championship games with the Buffalo league clubs. From Buffalo the men will go to Niagara Falls, then to Pittsburgh, Wheeling, Bellaire, O., Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, Kansas City, Lawrence, Kan., and Chicago. A regular schedule of games will be mapped out in the above named towns against the strongest teams.

Football Captains.

The captains of some of the different college football teams in the country are as follows: Harvard, Wrightington; Yale, Murphy; Cornell, Beacham; Princeton, Cockran; Pennsylvania, Wharton; Lafayette, Wallbridge; Williams, Ryan; Amherst, Warren; Lehigh, Gonsolos; Dartmouth, McCormack; University of Stanford, Fickert; University of California, Ransome; University of Illinois, Beebe; Brown University, Colby; Carlsle Indians, Pierce; University of Michigan, Serter.

Sporting Notes.

Ottinger may trot in the east next season. He is at 2:09 3/4, but can trot still faster.

President Maffit of the St. Louis Fair association states that he will retire Dec. 1 at the annual meeting of the association.

George Munroe, the American boxer, is doing well in England. He got a decision over Jack Maloney in ten rounds at Lambeth the other night.

Bray, the Lafayette college full back, played left field on the Cape May baseball team last summer and was about the only good outfielder on that team.

Jack, the 13-year-old son of Pilot Medium, came pretty near making a world's record when he won a third heat at St. Joseph, Mo., recently in 2:13 3/4.

H. H. McLane, an American in London, will offer a trophy worth £100 to the Henley regatta stewards, to be competed for by the crews from the leading colleges of Great Britain and the United States.

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OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

A Few Fool Election Bets In the Metropolitan High Priced Football—Two Big Bicycle Shows.

[Special Correspondence.]

From the many unprecedented and peculiar conditions surrounding the presidential campaign recently closed it was expected that there would be very few of the usual fool bets made, but it seems that this was a mistake. In fact, there has been a larger crop than usual, and numbers of men are now in the country awaiting the growing out of the half of the mustache which was shaved off as a tribute to party. The idiots who wagered wheelbarrow rides on the result of the election are too numerous to mention, and several of these journeys occur each day on Broadway. Then there is the donkey who has been obliged to sacrifice a circle of hair of the exact size of a silver dollar from the crown of his head. Naturally no bald men were included in this list. The most foolish of all the bets so far reported, however, because it was so dangerous, was one in which the loser agreed to slide head foremost down a 20 foot ladder to the ground. The unfortunate pluckily attempted to live up to the letter of his contract, but as he happened to weigh in the neighborhood of 200 pounds the effort was attended with disaster. He slid beautifully for about five feet, when he lost his grip on the ladder, and the balance of the descent was made in record breaking time. The stopping was the worst phase of the whole affair, though. It was so sudden that the victim will nurse a badly bruised skull and shoulder for several weeks to come. These are but a few of the many fool bets. The returns are not all in yet, and probably will not be for some time to come. Meanwhile the foolkiller is holding back complacently in the happy consciousness that his labors have, for the time being at least, been taken off his hands.

Football Charges.

There has been for several years a good deal of quiet kicking over the enormous admission fees charged by the college football teams at their games in this city. This is bad enough of itself, but when it is taken into consideration that, owing to the petty bickerings and jealousies of the leading universities, the team which has proved by its play in the earlier portion of the season to be the strongest is debarré from competing, and that, as a result, we do not get the best that might be provided even for the large prices we pay, the situation is particularly irritating. So long as the public only complained it made very little difference to the gay collegians, because the alumni and the newspapers were either on their side or maintained a discreet silence. But now that these two elements are arrayed against them, the abuse bids fair to be corrected by next season, if not even before then. Exorbitant prices of admission to performances of grand opera, where the artists receive princely salaries for their services, may be all right, but for a game of football between supposed amateurs it is rather rubbing it in a trifle too hard.

The Luckless Elevator Boy.

He was a boy who worked in a prominent hotel when he wasn't reading "The Boy Train Wrecker; or, Oak Ties Tumbled," on the bench in front of the clerk. Somebody told him that Saturday was a legal holiday, and that toil was not a part of it.

"The boss can't make you work," said the sneaky other boy, who wanted this boy's job; so the latter approached the proprietor.

"You can't make me work Saturday," he said. "It's a holiday."

"I can't make you work any time," responded the boniface; "so you can have a holiday from now until you get strong."

A Bicycle Show War.

Bicycle circles in this city are much agitated over the certain clash which is approaching with reference to the national annual show. It will be remembered that this has hitherto been held in the Madison Square Garden, and as it has usually proved a source of revenue for that not overcommemorative structure it was but natural that Manager Sanger should have wanted it again. Some trouble arose, however, and the powers that be decided that the show should be held at the Grand Central palace, a large building which has so far never justified the hopes of its projectors in a pecuniary way if their hopes were of anything but the most modest character. Sanger cannot be blamed for not becoming hilarious when this determination was announced to him, for it deprived him not only of the revenue, but also of the prestige attendant upon the national cycle exhibition. He didn't even smile. He became very, very angry and promptly decided to hold a show all by himself in the big Garden. As there is one of the largest manufacturers who never exhibits at the other, he had at least a start, and there were many accessions from makers who were dissatisfied with the management of the previous "annuals." Thus it soon became apparent that Sanger had not been making an idle threat, and that he was really a serious competitor. We are therefore likely to have two first class shows instead of one, as heretofore. And as there is no longer a monopoly in this particular line, there is a probability that the spirit of liberality which has up to the present time been conspicuously absent will once more come to the front. In any event, the dear public, about the welfare of which all bicycle manufacturers are so solicitous, will be likely to be benefited.

New York. JOSEPH RUSSELL.

To Kick the Bucket.

"To kick the bucket" is said to have originated in the time of Queen Elizabeth, when a shoemaker named Hawkins committed suicide under peculiar circumstances, placing a bucket on a table in order to raise himself high enough to reach a rafter above, then kicking away the bucket on which he stood.

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Francis Drake and Cecil Rhodes.

You ignore the fact that there were two Drakes, as there are two Cecil Rhodeses. When Drake's consummate seamanship and audacious courage successfully resisted the armada and sent the Duke of Sidonia "back to St. Mary Port among his orange trees," he became, and will justly remain for all time, an English hero. But eight years previously Drake stole the church plate of Lima, when Spain was at peace with England.

His robbery disgraced England and himself. In the remarkable volume of letters and state papers relating to English affairs edited by Major Sharp Hume, from the archives at Simancas, I have counted 39 instances in which the restitution of Drake's plunder is referred to by Dr. Mendoza in language which might be employed today by the agent general of the Transvaal. There was nothing admirable in the episode of the Lima plate; quite the reverse. Is it not, therefore, a good thing to distinguish between the good and the bad in Drake as in Mr. Rhodes? If Drake had been broken in 1579 for his theft of the Lima chalices and patens, he would never have had the opportunity of winning half the "three days' battles" in the channel in August, 1588. On the other hand, to condone the piratical expeditions of the earlier part of Drake's career because later on he acted nobly and as a true Englishman is unnecessary.

Should not the same thing hold good about Mr. Rhodes? We may admire and be grateful for his stand against Germany while condemning his plot against a friendly state and the Stock Exchange aroma of the whole transaction.—London Chronicle.

Cooper Not Yet Neglected.

In commenting in Longman's Magazine on the recent "Introduction to the Study of American Literature" Mr. Andrew Lang declares that Cooper "seems to be a good deal neglected now. Nobody goes on the trail with Natty Bumppo (sic)." It may be that Cooper is neglected in England, but he has not been neglected by all recent British authors, for Robert Louis Stevenson read him and praised him and borrowed from him, and Mr. Rudyard Kipling told an American friend not long ago that he had just been reading Cooper through and through with constantly increasing appreciation. And Cooper is not neglected by the publishers either in France or in America. In Paris not long ago a sumptuously illustrated translation of the most famous of Cooper's stories was issued uniform with a translation of the most famous of Scott's novels. In the United States "The Last of the Mohicans" has now been put on the list of books which a boy must read before he can get into college. The Putnams have begun to publish a complete set of his novels, illustrated, and to be known as the Mohawk edition. T. Y. Crowell & Co. have in preparation a new edition of the five Leatherstocking Tales, to be illustrated with full page photographs, by Mr. Frank T. Merrill and to be introduced by a long biographical and critical essay by Professor Brander Matthews.—Bookman.

A Cow Worth More Than a Man.

In the United States the administration of the law affecting the civil rights of the citizen, his property rights growing out of controversies between man and man upon contracts, has come to be regarded as of much more importance than the enforcement of the law which protects the life of the citizen. All can notice that. The criminal law and its administration have rather fallen into disgrace. That is especially true of the large cities of the country. All must agree that it is more important to protect a man's life than it is his property. If the man's life is destroyed, if the assassin fires into his house and takes away his life, is that not a greater deprivation than to deprive him of his horse or his cow or even of all the other property which he possesses? Now why is this the case? It is largely because of the corrupt methods resorted to to defeat the law's administration and because courts of justice look to the shadow in the shape of technicalities rather than to the substance in the shape of crime.—North American Review.

Sung Revenge as He Strewed Roses.

Human nature will assert itself, and it did it at a Sunday school celebration in one of the outlying wards. The church was crowded with fond parents and friends to enjoy the exhibition of their youngsters going through their religious exercises. The participants were all boys ranging from 7 to 15 years of age, and they looked angelic, the most of them, in their clean white waists and knickerbockers, with patent leather pumps. One of them attracted attention by his cherubic appearance, as the children walked backward with bowed and reverent attitude, strewing flowers before their religious teachers and singing in sweet, boyish treble. Just as the song swelled to its highest the boy in front of the cherubic lad by mischance trod on his foot and without changing a muscle in the expression of his face the latter went on strewing his roses and singing, changing the words of the hymn to "I'll swipe you for that when we get out."—Brooklyn Eagle.

They Knew What It Was.

A school inspector, finding a class hesitating over answering the question, "With what weapon did Samson slay the Philistines?" and wishing to prompt them, significantly tapped his cheek and asked, "What is this?"

The Whole Class—The jawbone of an ass.—Philadelphia Times.

During the early ages one form of punishment for regicides was to "crown" the culprit with a ring of red-hot iron.

FOOD FOR THE FIEND

NEW YORK'S "FIREPROOF" SKYSCRAPERS INVITE A HOLOCAUST.

Once Well Started a Conflagration Might Wipe Out the Best Part of the Business Section—Too Much Iron, Says Chief of Fire Department Bonner.

New York's business section—that part of the city that includes the newest of modern fireproof buildings—is in great danger of being wiped out by fire. Capitalists who furnish the money that pays for erecting these new buildings do not seem to realize this fact, although the veteran chief of the fire department reiterates this statement about once a year. Read what he says.

"That a big section of lower New York some day will be wiped out by fire is probable if existing conditions continue," Fire Chief Bonner said to a Press reporter.

These conditions are the height of the buildings, the material used in their construction, the narrowness of the streets and the inadequacy of the water supply.

It is a favorite argument that if worst came to worst, buildings ahead of a burning area could be blown up, as the farmer turns a dead furrow to check the prairie fire. This theory is not advanced any more by intelligent men, says the chief.

"We can fight a fire 125 feet high, or ten stories. Above that we are well nigh helpless. They say that the modern tall fireproof building needs not as much protection as the ordinary low structure. But the fireproof building is yet to be built. The communists couldn't destroy Paris in 1871 even by the use of barrels of petroleum. In American buildings are all the necessities of a big hot fire, without the aid of a drop of petroleum. The large structures in foreign cities are built far more solidly than ours. Having fewer forests and less wood, European builders get along with little inside trim of wood. Iron and steel in these days have taken the place in this country of masonry. Nothing withstands fire as well as a well constructed brick wall. Iron columns are covered with four inches of terra cotta or brick, which fire and water can tear off in a short time. Then the stripped iron is left to warp and twist and tumble. I believe the covering should be eight inches.

"With only one night watchman in a building, in danger, like all mortals, of sudden sickness or incapacity, and with no night elevator, a fire could get a good headway in the upper floors of a 20 or 30 story building. Bursting out of the windows and fanned by a strong wind, the flames could easily leap the narrow streets of lower New York and a fire of enormous extent and damage begin.

"I have always opposed putting a big building in City Hall park, believing that the time might come when that area, needful as a base of operations, would be the salvation of the city."

Most of the new skyscrapers have fire fighting appliances of their own of more or less value. Tanks on the roof and in the cellar are supplied and kept full by various systems, but these are as much for the ordinary requirements of tenants as for possible use in fire. Some of the structures have standpipes inside or outside the wall. Legally there is no way of compelling the builders of what is called a "fireproof" building to put in more than the most ordinary fire appliances, even above the 125 foot line.

Building a 20 story structure is much like building a dwelling house in one respect—there's always deviations from the plans and improvements upon them. For every alteration from the drawings filed with the building department the permission of the board of examiners must be had. If the alterations are proper, consent is granted, but on condition that approved fire appliances be put in the building, particularly in the upper stories. These include a stipulation that at least one elevator shall be ready to run at any time in the night in order that the firemen can get up and down quickly; the putting of hose and fire buckets on each floor, and, usually, a standpipe, with couplings for each floor. When the builders consent to add these equipments and others deemed necessary, including a competent night watch service, permission is granted to make the alterations. This applies, of course, only to buildings under construction recently. Of those already up there is small hope unless the underwriters' offer of lower premiums appeal sufficiently to the pocketbook.

To the end that the fire resistance of building materials shall be known positively, fire tests have been made under the supervision of the superintendent of buildings. Three such public exhibitions already have been held, and they will be continued at intervals through the winter. When finished, Superintendent Constable will make a report to the board of examiners.

The cry for more water in the lower part of the city has been insistent for years. Many have been the plans for reservoirs at the Battery and on either side half a mile or a mile up stream. Every time an extra line of pipe has been laid with the object of furnishing the needed surplus it has been tapped up town. The fire and building departments hope that the two 48 inch mains being laid in Fifth avenue will be left for the relief of the section below Chambers street. Chief Bonner says the Forty-second street reservoir should not be disturbed until water is flowing undiverted through these mains to the locality that needs it most and for which it is intended.

That New York will be brought face to face with grave peril from the 30 storied structures unless precautions plentiful and timely are taken is not doubted by those who have studied the problem of maintaining safety with mountainous firebrands in narrow streets.—New York Press.

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